AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The medical navigation system according to claim [2] **38** wherein the memory contains unique identifying information about the device, and wherein the interface includes a database of the unique identifying information for devices with which the interface is intended to operate.

9. (Currently Amended) The medical navigation system according to claim [3] **40** wherein the memory contains unique identifying information about the device, and wherein the interface includes a database of the unique identifying information for devices with which the interface is intended to operate.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The medical navigation system according to claim [1] **38** wherein the interface includes a plurality of programs, each adapted for use with a different type of elongate flexible medical device, each program operating only when an electronic identification device for the particular type of elongate flexible medical device is present.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The medical navigation system according to claim [1] **38** wherein the interface tracks elapsed time of use of the identified elongate flexible medical device and invalidates use of the identified elongate flexible medical device when the elapsed time exceeds a pre-defined limit.

15. - 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A medical navigation system for controlling the distal end of an elongate medical device in the body of the patient comprising:

an elongate flexible medical device;

a memory device provided on the flexible medical device that includes information on the physical and geometric properties including one or more cross-sectional areas of the elongate device and an elastic property of the elongate medical device that are relevant to navigational control of the device;

a control system for controlling the position and/or orientation of the distal end of the elongate medical device, where the one or more cross-sectional areas of the device, and the elastic property of the device are used in navigational control algorithms for guiding the device;

an interface for accepting inputs from the user to cause the control system to selectively change the position and/or orientation of the elongate medical device; the interface sending actuation instructions to the control system dependent in part upon the medical device's physical and geometric property information, including the one or more cross-sectional areas of the device, and the elastic property of the device obtained from the memory device, wherein the physical and geometric properties of the device are used in navigational control algorithms for guiding the device.

39. (Original) The medical navigation system according to claim 38 wherein the interface incorporates a software program that controls navigation by employing a computational model of flexible device physics.

40. (Original) The system according to claim 38 wherein the memory device includes storing unique device identification information for the elongate flexible medical device, and wherein the interface includes a database of unique device identification information and corresponding device properties, and wherein the instructions sent to the control system take into account the device properties determined from the database.

41. – 50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) The medical navigational control system according to claim [50] 38 wherein the information including physical and geometric properties of the device includes at least one of the length of one or more flexible segments of the device, one or more cross-sectional areas of the device, and an elastic property of the device.

52. -53. (Cancelled)